

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /073 W

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O R 111600Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8394

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1699

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

USUN FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SF WA PORG

SUBJ: NAMIBIA: CHONA DESCRIBES FRONTLINE ATTITUDES

1. I HAD BRIEF DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT MARK CHONA ABOUT NAMIBIA IN THE COURSE OF A MEETING ON MATTERS CONCERNING THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO THE U.S. CHONA SAID THAT NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD CONTINUE. HOWEVER, THE SOUTH AFRICAN ATTACK WILL CHANGE SWAPO'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS TROOP NUMBERS AND LOCATION. I REPLIED
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THAT I WAS SORRY TO HEAR THAT. AS I UNDERSTOOD THE STATE OF PLAY, WE WERE PREPARED TO BE RESPONSIVE TO SWAPO'S CONCERNS ON THE MAJOR ISSUE REMAINING WHICH WAS WALVIS BAY, BUT I DID NOT GET THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE WAS ANY LEEWAY IN THE OTHER MATTERS. IT WOULD BE TRAGIC IF WE LET THIS OPPORTUNITY PASS WHEN WE WERE SO CLOSE TO REACHING AGREEMENT. CHONA SAID IF WE FAILED IT WOULD NOT BE SWAPO'S FAULT. THE FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS

HAD DONE THEIR JOB GETTING NUJOMA TO NEW YORK IN A "YES ATTITUDE." I ACCEPTED THAT NUJOMA HAD GOTTEN TO NEW YORK BUT QUESTIONED THE "YES ATTITUDE." THE IMPORTANT POINT HOWEVER WASN'T RECRIMINATION OVER WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR OUR PAST SUCCESSES OR FAILURES BUT HOW WE MOVED ON FROM HERE. WHAT CONCERNED US WAS HOW TO KEEP FROM LETTING SOUTH AFRICA OFF THE HOOK. I WAS VERY WORRIED ABOUT THE ATTITUDES IN THE WESTERN WORLD INCLUDING THE U.S. WHERE IT WOULD BECOME VERY DIFFICULT TO PUT PRESSURES ON SOUTH AFRICA IF IT WENT ITS OWN WAY AS A RESULT OF SWAPO'S INTRANSIGENCE IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS. CHONA SHRUGGED. UNFORTUNATELY AT THAT POINT WE WERE INTERRUPTED WHEN HE HAD TO RUSH OFF TO SEE THE PRESIDENT.

2. WHEN I WENT BACK TO SEE CHONA IN THE AFTERNOON, HIS FIRST ACTION WAS TO GIVE TELEPHONIC INSTRUCTIONS THAT THE PRESIDENT WANTED TO SEE SAM NUJOMA TOMORROW, FRIDAY, MAY 12, IF HE AND HIS GROUP ARE IN LUSAKA. CHONA AGAIN EXPLAINED THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD CONTINUE. THE ONLY DIFFERENCE WAS THAT SWAPO WOULD NOW BE STARTING FROM A DIFFERENT POSITION ON NUMBER

AND LOCATION OF TROOPS. THEY MAY, HE CONCEDED, COME BACK TO THE POSITION STATED IN THE PROPOSAL. BUT THE SOUTH AFRICAN ATTACK HAD CHANGED THINGS.

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